



Finding ways to prevent violent deaths in Iowa by understanding contributing circumstances

Fall 2016 Update

On July 27, the IDPH Office of Disability, Injury & Violence Prevention hosted two representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS) site visit. Ms. Rebecca Wilson and Dr. Emiko Petrosky serve as the CDC project officer and science officer, respectively, for the IAVDRS project.

The purpose of the site visit was to show the progress made on the IAVDRS project over the past year and discuss plans for the coming years. The IAVDRS staff gave a presentation on the data collection process. Medical examiner and law enforcement agencies were invited to attend. The CDC remarked that Iowa had the best law enforcement participation of any site visit they've ever conducted. Our thanks to meeting attendees: Iowa DCI, Polk County SO and Cedar Rapids PD, and phone attendees Sioux City PD, Waterloo PD, and Scott County SO and Woodbury County SO.

Staff anticipate attending regional LEIN meetings in late fall and winter so IAVDRS staff have an opportunity to share information regarding our activities.

Status of Data Collection & Reporting

All of the information on the number of violent deaths is entered into the national web system and is stored in a secure national database maintained by the CDC. Iowa is accountable for initiating the cases within six months of the occurrence of the death. Beginning January 2017, cases will need to be initiated within four months. So far this year 99.6% of the cases were initiated within the required timeframe.

- For CY2015, there are **268** cases entered into the system. Of them, we have 93% of ME records completed and 2% of LE records completed.
- For CY2016, there are **328** cases entered in the system to date. Of them, we have 74% of ME records completed and 0% of LE records completed.

Visit the CDC NVDRS website to obtain more information available through the reporting system and answers to FAQs. www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/faqs.html.

[NVDRS's Online Database](#) is a reporting tool that can help you get more information on violent deaths. This tool goes beyond providing basic information, such as race, sex, and age, to providing comprehensive details on circumstances surrounding the violent death.

Spotlight on Staff



In addition to being the project director for IAVDRS, **Binnie LeHew, MSW** is also the national President of the Safe States Alliance. Binnie is Executive Officer for the Office of Disability, Injury & Violence Prevention at the IDPH. She coordinates related programs throughout the department and has 18 years' experience in managing IDPH grants and programs for domestic and sexual violence prevention. She serves on several state advisory groups addressing injury and violence prevention, including the Iowa Domestic Abuse Death Review Team and Iowa Trauma System Advisory Council.

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IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

Office of Disability, Injury & Violence Prevention
Iowa Department of Public Health

515.281.5032

<http://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/violent-death-reporting>